1	2	3	4	5
34.	Pondicherry	31220	18209	49428
35.	Andaman and Nicobar	4097	5733	9831
	ALL INDIA:	9050038	22201644	31251682

Government partnership with Mittal Steel

†2095. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to make a partnership with Mittal Steel regarding Chiria Mine, Chhattisgarh which has been at present leased out to SAIL;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that this case is *sub-judice* at Supreme Court; and

(d) if so, how it is possible to make any partnership when the case is *sub- judice*?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a), (b) and (d) At present, there is no proposal for partnership with Mittal Steel regarding Chiria Mines in Jharkhand State. Also, Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) is not in a position to share Chiria Mines as the iron ore resources with SAIL are not sufficient to meet its long term requirement.

(c) Out of six leases of Chiria Mines, three leases namely Ajitaburu, Sukri-Latur, Tatiburu are *sub-judice* at Jharkhand High Court at Ranchi.

Status of agro-based industries in Maharashtra

2096. SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state the details on existing status of agro-based industries in Maharashtra and the steps taken by Government to promote agro-based industries in the State?

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): Eligible entrepreneurs are assisted in setting up village industries, including agro based and food processing industries, under the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) of the Government, implemented through the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), in village and small towns with population upto 20,000. Under this programme, entrepreneurs can establish village industries by availing the margin money assistance from KVIC and loans from public sector scheduled commercial banks, selected regional rural banks, cooperative banks, etc., for projects with a maximum cost of Rs. 25 lakh. Considering the importance of agro and food based projects, 40 per cent target under REGP is earmarked/allocated to this group of industry. 6920 village industry units under the 'agro based and food processing industries' group of the village industries under REGP have been set up in Maharashtra since the inception of the scheme with effect trom 1st April, 1995 with margin money assistance of Rs. 2449.76 lakh and estimated generation of additional employment opportunities

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.